

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

On 1/16/2009, Applicants' counsel, Timothy K. Klintworth, and inventor Darin P. Haudrich conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Peter D Coughlan. Applicants appreciate the courtesy which was extended by Examiner Coughlan to grant the interview. During the interview, the rejections of independent claims 1, 17, 21, 28, 29, and 30 were discussed in light of the cited prior art of Boller and Luxhoj. Applicants stated that Applicants' invention relates to a system and method for determining, as to a structure with a completed repair, aeroelastic flutter analysis results comprising at least one of a flutter frequency and a flutter speed in order to determine whether the aeroelastic flutter characteristics of the structure with a completed repair are acceptable. Applicants stated that none of the cited prior art relates to this. Applicants stated that the cited prior art of Boller and Luxhoj relate to predictive capability for fatigue inspection or fatigue repairs, involving the repairs of small cracks to stop crack initiation or propagation. Applicants stated that this is completely different than Applicants' disclosure which involves aeroelastic flutter analysis, comprising the determination of at least one of a flutter frequency and a flutter speed, in order to determine whether the aeroelastic flutter characteristics of a structure with a completed repair are acceptable. Examiner Coughlan stated that he understood Applicants' position. Examiner Coughlan requested that Applicants amend the claims to further specify that the aeroelastic analysis involves aeroelastic flutter analysis to determine whether a structure with a completed repair has acceptable aeroelastic flutter. In this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims as Examiner Coughlan instructed. The amended claims are believed to be in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

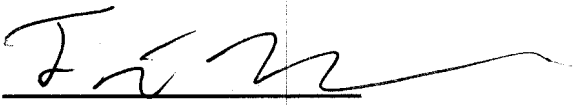
Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boller in view of Luxhoj, in view of Mehrota. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boller, Luxhoj and Mehrota in view of Hampton (US Patent 4,840,069). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boller, Luxhoj and Mehrota in view of Hockey (US Patent 6,014,024). Claims 5, 10-12, 17-26, 28-32, and 35-50 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boller, Luxhoj and Mehrota in view of NMAB_497.

Each of independent claims 1, 17, 21, 28, 29, and 30 have been amended to further specify that the aeroelastic flutter analysis result (or aeroelastic flutter characteristics – claim 17) comprises the determination of at least one of a flutter frequency and a flutter speed in order to determine whether the aeroelastic flutter of a structure with a completed repair are acceptable. Support for these amendments is contained throughout Applicants' originally filed application. (See paragraphs 2-7 and 22-80 discussing aeroleastic flutter analysis of a structure with completed repairs to determine flutter frequency and flutter speed of the structure with completed repairs in order to determine whether the structure has acceptable aeroleastic flutter properties).

For the reasons discussed in the Examiner interview as recited above, each of amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 28, 29, and 30 are now in condition for allowance. The remaining claims each depend from one of the amended independent claims, add further limitations, and are also in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims at issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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